

Sunbird population, according to present knowledge, is isolated from the nearest population in Sudan (Nikolaus 1987) by 700 km, and in Kenya (Lewis & Pomeroy 1989) by 650 km.

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Scopus 18: 54–56, November 1994

Received 17 October 1994

African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* at Jadini, Kenya coast

On 17 October 1993 at around 15:30, while walking down a well trodden track near Nomads Beach Bar in the Jadini Forest on the southern Kenya coast (4°19S, 39°34E), I came across an adult African Pitta *Pitta angolensis*. After watching the bird for 5 min, I left to fetch some more observers to share my sighting. On returning, we could not relocate the bird but, on playing a tape recording, it appeared from the undergrowth. We watched the bird well for a further 20 min in good light at a range of 3–8 m and made the following observations. The bird was immediately recognizable by its striking, colourful plumage. The back and mantle were dark green, contrasting sharply with a buff/yellow breast and a scarlet upper and lower belly. The sides of the head, nape and crown were black with a buff/yellow supercilium. The bill was heavy and the legs were set noticeably well back on the body. On playing the tape recording repeatedly, the bird came out on to the edge of the track, where it stood erect for several seconds before flying across, showing white patches on the primaries.

Unlike many descriptions in the literature, this bird was very obliging and appeared completely oblivious to our presence, allowing a close approach. It fed by standing still for up to 30 s, flicking leaves aside with its bill, before hopping a metre or so to another spot and repeating the process.

October is the tail-end month for the Pitta's occurrence in Kenya, and this bird was presumably about to migrate south to breed. A species more usually associated with Gedi and Sokoke to the north, this record appears to be the first in Kenya for about a decade (Waiyaki, 1994), possibly due to a decrease in the breeding population in Mozambique combined with a lack of resident observers at the Kenya coast.

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Scopus 18: 57, November 1994

Received 11 October 1994

Further records for the Taita Falcon *Falco fasciinucha* from Tanzania

The Taita Falcon was first collected from Tanzania by Gerd Heinrich at Kingolwira near Morogoro on 4 February 1962 (Ripley & Heinrich 1966). Previously it was known from sight records on Olosirwa in the Crater Highlands, probably during January 1945 (Elliott & Fuggles-Couchman 1948). The third and fourth records were of birds collected by Thorkild Andersen from Namabengo, some 30 km northwest of Songea: a male on 29 May 1964 and a female on 16 November 1964 (Britton 1981). The fifth record was that of Geertsema (1977) from the Gol Mountains, west of the Crater Highlands, on 1 March 1977. We can now give three further Tanzanian records of this enigmatic falcon.

On 31 October 1983, near Njombe in the Southern Highlands, EMB watched a perched adult for several minutes in good light at 09:45. The large feet, short tail and distinctive nape patches were noted.

On 22 December 1989, some 30 km northeast of Kilosa along the road to Dumila to the west of Morogoro town, and only 65 km from Kingolwira, we saw an adult flying along a local storm front. It was well seen against dark clouds (with the light behind us). The short tail, heavy head and pale rufous wash to the underparts were clearly seen several times.

On 1 December 1993 we had excellent brief views of a Taita Falcon from the track which crosses the Ukaguru Mountains east of Mamwera peak. It was immediately identified on jizz—the large head and short tail being particularly distinctive. The strong morning light highlighted the pale throat and upper breast as the bird flew virtually overhead above the pass. This record is only 40 km from the December 1989 sighting and 106 km from Kingolwira. There are many isolated crags and rock faces in